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June 8, 2010

William H. Jeffress, Jr.



The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
United States Senate  
433 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
United States Senate  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: James M. Cole, Nominee for Deputy Attorney General

Dear Senators Leahy and Sessions:

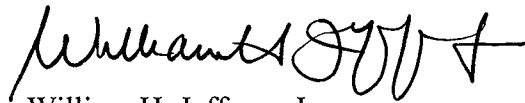
I write to offer my views about Jim Cole, who has recently been nominated to become Deputy Attorney General of the United States. My views are based on long experience with Mr. Cole both when he was a prosecutor and when he was in private practice. In my judgment, Jim would be a superb Deputy Attorney General and I highly recommend him to you.

I first met Mr. Cole more than twenty years ago when, as a deputy chief of the Public Integrity Section of the Justice Department, he was lead prosecutor of my client, a Louisiana public official. Jim was a highly skilled and tenacious advocate for the government, but completely courteous and professional in all his dealings with opposing counsel and the court. When the court of appeals ruled that double jeopardy principles barred the government from making a certain claim that was central to its case, he made the fair and wise decision voluntarily to dismiss the indictment rather than pursue the charges with little chance of success on the merits.

My experience with Jim as a prosecutor led me to recommend him highly for several engagements after he entered private practice. I have had the pleasure of dealing with him both as counsel for parties on the same side of cases, and in the AIG matter where he served as Independent Consultant and I was among the counsel for AIG. In each and every instance where I observed his conduct, I have been highly impressed with his ability, his judgment, and his integrity. I cannot recall a single lawyer who dealt with Jim who came away with anything but the highest respect for him.

It has been my good fortune to count as good friends a number of people who have served as Deputy Attorney General during administrations of both political parties, including Jamie Gorelick and Larry Thompson. It is, of course, a demanding job that requires the respect of the law enforcement community, the confidence of the President and the Congress, the good judgment and strength of character to make difficult and wise decisions, and the ability to manage a large and diverse organization. Jim Cole has all those qualities. He will be an outstanding Deputy Attorney General and I am delighted at his selection for this job.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William H. Jeffress, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

William H. Jeffress, Jr.